

STATE OF THE COUNTY



The 2008 State of the County of San Bernardino event again meshed economic development with an effort to inform stakeholders of key initiatives and accomplishments of the year. The April 3rd event at the Ontario Convention Center drew nearly 1,300 people to a showcase of opportunity and progress in San Bernardino County. It was the largest such showcase in the County's history, reflecting the region's emergence as a new center of investment and economic expansion.

The theme, One Shared Vision, invoked the idea that while San Bernardino County is home to dozens of diverse communities spread across 20,000 square miles, these communities share common goals. They each want to improve quality of life for residents, enhance economic opportunities, support healthy lifestyles and healthcare, provide safe environments and foster the cultural and recreational resources that help families enjoy life and expand their horizons.

Such common values and goals provide a place to center dialogue and focus resources. The 2008 State of the County was designed as a forum and networking event where attendees could engage representatives of San Bernardino County, its departments, its cities and other stakeholders.

The evening opened with a networking reception featuring displays from 33 county departments and 15 cities. Attendees then moved into the main presentation room for dinner and a lively discussion featuring then-Chairman Paul Biane and moderator Ross Shafer, as well as video presentations from present Chairman Gary Ovitt, supervisors Brad Mitzelfelt and Dennis Hansberger, and present Vice Chair Josie Gonzales.

Following dinner, the audience was invited to join the Supervisors in individual networking rooms that showcased their districts while providing a comfortable atmosphere to interact with the officials and their staffs.

2008 IN REVIEW

Public Safety



Board acts to expand Emergency Operations Center

On October 28 the Board of Supervisors approved a much-needed expansion of the County's Emergency Operations Center in Rialto. The 1,530-square-foot expansion to the 6,000-square-foot facility will enhance the county's ability to coordinate multi-agency responses to both small- and large-scale disasters. In September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency awarded the County a \$323,943 grant for EOC expansion. It was the only jurisdiction in California to receive such a grant. The total cost of the project is \$512,000 with the balance to come from the County's Capital Improvement Program and other County funds.

County Fire staff assists Gulfport following Hurricane Gustav

On September 2 a four-member County Fire Incident Management Team departed for Gulfport, Mississippi, to assist the Gulf Coast city in its recovery from Hurricane Gustav and help the community prepare for future disasters. The team's primary mission was to support the city's efforts to create a written Incident Action Plan that would include a scenario based around a Category 4 or greater hurricane. The plan will be shared by Gulfport and the County of San Bernardino, and will contain specific information about each jurisdiction, including phone numbers for key personnel and maps of the city and county with Global Positioning Satellite coordinates for important public facilities. The county made a commitment following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to help Gulfport in times of need. Gulfport made the same commitment, having sent fire officials to assist the county during the 2007 wildfires.



New telephone notification system will give residents control

On June 24 the Board of Supervisors approved a contract to provide the county with a new Telephone Emergency Notification System, or TENS, that will offer residents the ability to add cell phone numbers, work phone numbers, and other phone numbers besides their home numbers to the list of numbers that would receive emergency notices during disasters. The system will also allow residents to sign up for emergency notices via e-mail and text messaging in a variety of languages. The current system has been an overwhelming success, placing more than 240,000 calls during 20 wildfire and flood-threat events since it was created in 2004. However, the current system can only send recorded alerts to land-line phone numbers provided to the county by the various phone service providers. "This system has the potential to put residents in control of how they receive disaster information," said Supervisor Paul Biane, who was chairman at the time of the Board's action.